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Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
New York, 21 February-16 March 2012

Draft decision submitted by the Bureau

Working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, recalling paragraph 277 of the report on its 2011 session (A/65/19) and underlining the desirability to enhance its working methods, in particular those of its Working Group of the Whole:

(a) Decides to implement the following changes to its working methods, with effect from its 2012 session:

(i) In order to reduce the amount of text to be negotiated during the annual session, standardized paragraphs of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" that do not change from year to year will be identified and agreed ad referendum in advance of the session by the negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole;

(ii) The negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, are encouraged to streamline similar inputs to the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", with a view to submitting a single version to the Working Group of the Whole. In this regard, the Chair of the Working Group will aim to present a streamlined first draft of the chapter for the negotiations. For reference, an unedited comprehensive first draft, showing all inputs received, will also be made available to the Working Group of the Whole;

(iii) As a rule, the number of subsidiary working groups established to negotiate the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" should not exceed eight. In order to allow delegations to plan their participation, the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole is encouraged to disseminate the list of subsidiary working groups and their programmes of work as early as possible during the session;

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(iv) Within each section of the chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", the non-operative paragraphs will be separated from the recommendations made and briefings requested. Requests for briefings and recommendations will also clearly identify the actors at which the requests and recommendations are aimed;

(b) Also decides to keep its working methods under review, with a view to formulating further recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) Further decides that the present decision will be included as an annex to the report of the Special Committee on its 2012 session.